that would foster authorship and bring new wirters to the forefront and to organise literacy meetings, discourases, discussions, seminars and workshops.

(b) The Executive Committee of Authors Guild of India comprises of President: Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Secretary-General : Dr. Rajendra Awasthy, Vice-President: Barrister J.C. Batra, and Treasurer : Dr Suresh Dhingra with Members Dr Sarojini Pritam, Dr. R.K. Seth, Dr Motilal Jotwani, Dr. H. Balasubramaniam, Shri C.P. Prabhaker, Shri Ram Prakash Gupta and Dr. Virendra Saxsena. While Secretary of Indian Society of Authors is Shrawan Kumar, its Executive Committee consists of President : Dr. K.P.A. Menon, Vice-President : Dr O.P. Kejriwal and Shri N. Kunju, Secretary-General : Shri R.K. Murthy, Treasurer ; Shri Rajan Prasher and Joint Secretary : Shri Suresh Uniyal with Members Shri S.C. Maheswari, Shri K.R.K. Mohan, Shri Vedabhyas Kundu, Shri R.K. Bharati, Dr. V.V.B. Rama Rao, Dr S.K. Bhatia and Dr. R.P. Dua. Col. Goutam Sharma will be Founder patron with membership on the Executive Committee for life.

(c) During the last three years, the erstwhile Department of Education had granted Authors Guild of India financial assistance of Rs. 55,000/- for the purpose of organising a seminar on "Multi-Culturalism in Indian Literature" in 1997-1998, Rs. 88,000 for organising a seminar on "Advent of New Technology on Literature" in 1998-1999 and Rs. 85,237/- for organising a seminar on "the Author and his Commitment (to the society, region, nation, public interest and character building)" in 1999-2000 and Indian Society of Authors was given financial assistance of Rs. 66,291/- for organising a seminar on "History and Literature" in 1997-1998 and Rs. 90,000/- for organising a seminar on "Media and Literature" in 1999-2000.

Research Fellowship to SC/ST students

5124. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that University Grants Commission on awards large number of Senior Research Fellowships and Junior Research Fellowships to students for carrying out higher studies such as M.Phil. and Ph. D. in various Universities;

(b) if so, the total number of students/scholars who have been awarded Senior Research Fellowships and Junior Research Fellowships during the last

five years and number of persons belonging to SCs/STs among them and their percentage, as compared to the total Fellowships; and

(c) whether adequate number of Fellowships are not awarded to the persons belonging to SCs/STs if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) As per the information received from UGC, Fellowships are awarded in Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences on the basis of NET Examination conducted jointly by UGC/CSIR.

(b) and (c) The details of total Fellowships awarded during last five years and share of SCs/STs with their percentage is indicated below:—

Year	Total No. of Fellowships	Fellowships awarded to SCs/STs candidates	
1995	397	85	22.42%
1996	680	162	23.52%
1997	858	226	26.38%
1998	711	169	26.64%
1999	701	159	22.68%

Advanced Information Technology for distance education

5125. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to examine utilisation of latest and advance information technology and other facilities in spreading distance education, instead of sending printed materials and conducting periodical contact classes; and

(b) whether Government would constitute an Expert Committee to improve the distance education and to have an elaborated study on the matter and suggest ways and means to implement the same in an efficient manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Information Technology is being used to supplement the distance education being imparted through print materials and contact classes.